Appl. No. : 10/719,619
Filed : November 20, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-33. (Canceled).

34. (Previously presented) A method of enhancing a production of antibodies specific for a viral antigen, comprising:

identifying a subject in need of an enhanced production of antibodies specific for a viral antigen; and

providing to said subject an immunogenic composition comprising a viral antigen and ribavirin.

35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the amount of ribavirin is at least 0.25mg.

36. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 0.25mg and 100 mg.

37. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 0.25 mg and 25mg.

38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 0.25mg and 1mg.

39. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the amount of ribavirin is at least 0.1 mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the amount of ribavirin is at between about 0.1 mg ribavirin to about 1.0 mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

41. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the amount of ribavirin is at between about 1.1 mg ribavirin to about 2.0 mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

42. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the amount of ribavirin is at between about 2.1 mg ribavirin to about 3.0mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

43. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein the amount of ribavirin is at between about 3.1 mg ribavirin to about 4.0mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

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44. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein said viral antigen is from a virus selected from the group consisting of hepatitis A virus, hepatitis B virus , and hepatitis C virus.

45. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein said viral antigen is from hepatitis C virus.

46. (Previously presented) A method of enhancing a production of antibodies specific for a viral antigen comprising:

providing an immunogenic composition comprising a viral antigen and ribavirin to a subject; and

measuring the production of antibodies specific for said viral antigen.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 46, wherein said measuring comprises measuring ~~a reduction of viral load~~ levels of IgG.

48-50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously presented) A method of increasing the titer of viral antigen-specific IgG antibodies in a subject in need thereof, comprising:

identifying a subject in need of an increase in titer of IgG antibodies that are specific for a viral antigen; and

providing said subject an immunogenic composition comprising ribavirin and said viral antigen.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said viral antigen is a hepatitis antigen.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein said hepatitis antigen is an antigen from hepatitis A virus, hepatitis B virus, or hepatitis C virus.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said viral antigen is a hepatitis C virus antigen.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said viral antigen comprises a hepatitis C virus NS3 antigen.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 0.25mg and 100mg.

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58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 0.25mg and 25mg.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 0.25mg and 1mg.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the amount of ribavirin is at least 0.1mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 0.1mg ribavirin to about 1.0 mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 1.1mg ribavirin to about 2.0 mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 2.1mg ribavirin to about 3.0mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 3.1mg ribavirin to about 4.0mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the amount of ribavirin is at least 0.25mg.

66. (Previously presented) A method of enhancing a T cell response to a viral antigen in a subject in need thereof comprising:

identifying a subject in need of an improvement in a T cell response to a viral antigen; and

providing said subject an immunogenic composition comprising ribavirin and said viral antigen.

67. (Previously presented). The method of claim 66, wherein said viral antigen is a hepatitis antigen.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein said hepatitis antigen is an antigen from hepatitis A virus, hepatitis B virus, or hepatitis C virus.

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69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein said viral antigen is a hepatitis C virus antigen.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said viral antigen comprises a hepatitis C virus NS3 antigen.

71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the amount of ribavirin is at least 0.25mg.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 0.25mg and 100mg.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 0.25mg and 25mg.

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 0.25mg and 1mg.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the amount of ribavirin is at least 0.1mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

77. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 0.1mg ribavirin to about 1.0 mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 1.1mg ribavirin to about 2.0 mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

79. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 2.1mg ribavirin to about 3.0mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

80. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the amount of ribavirin is between about 3.1mg ribavirin to about 4.0mg ribavirin per kg body weight of a subject receiving said composition.

81. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said viral antigen is a fragment of hepatitis C virus NS3 protein that comprises at least 200 consecutive amino acids.

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82. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said viral antigen is a fragment of hepatitis C virus NS3 protein that comprises at least 100 consecutive amino acids.

83. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said viral antigen is a fragment of hepatitis C virus NS3 protein that comprises at least 50 consecutive amino acids.

84. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein said viral antigen is a hepatitis C virus NS3 antigen.

85. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein said viral antigen is a fragment of hepatitis C virus NS3 protein that comprises at least 200 consecutive amino acids.

86. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein said viral antigen is a fragment of hepatitis C virus NS3 protein that comprises at least 100 consecutive amino acids.

87. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein said viral antigen is a fragment of hepatitis C virus NS3 protein that comprises at least 50 consecutive amino acids.

88. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein said viral antigen is a fragment of hepatitis C virus NS3 protein that comprises at least 10 consecutive amino acids.

89. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said measuring comprises measuring levels of IgM.

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